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177
Delaware tribe was gathered together on a reservation in Kansas in 1835 and from there removed to their present location in Oklahoma, where they are politically incorporated in the Cherokee nation. Other Delaware, most of whom belonged to the Munsee division and were converted by Moravian missionaries in the eighteenth century, are now located in Ontario.

DELAWARE CULTURE

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The method of presentation which has been followed is to place the authorities for each statement immediately after it. For the most part, traits for which there is no evidence in earlier sources have been omitted, but where this leaves a large gap in the picture of the culture, sections based purely on eighteenth century sources have been inserted. The material has been divided into three main aspects, and proceeds from a consideration of economic life, to social organization and religion.

Means of Procuring Food

226
[262]
For the tribes living on the east coast, fishing was probably the most important means of getting food, judging from the relative amounts of shells and animal bones found in ancient sites (Skinner, 1915, p. 7). Oysters, clams, mussels and scallops were widely utilized as well as rockfish, shad, herring, sturgeon and gar fish which were found plentifully in those waters (Abbott, 1875, p. 278; Skinner, 1909, p. 46).

[227]
According to Lindstrom, the Indians caught fish by building a dam across a stream near its source or at a waterfall. When the river rose, the last small opening was closed in the dam and the water allowed to flow over it, leaving the fish in shallow water at low tide. They were then either taken by hand or shot with bow and arrow (sic). The latter method was also used in deep water (Lindstrom, 1915, pp. 219-220). Other writers report the use of hemp nets, and a number of stone sinkers have been found in archaeological sites. Rude seines of matted leaves and twigs are mentioned as well as fishing spears (Abbott, 1875, pp. 278 and 361; Heye, p. 70; Skinner, 1915, pp. 7 and 10; Harrington, 1913, p. 222).

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The Delaware's hunting was done both cooperatively and individually. Early Swedish writers have described one cooperative method in which deer were surrounded either by a ring of men or by a ring of fire, and driven toward the center where they were shot with bow and arrow. Sometimes they were driven into a river where they were lassoed (Johnson, p. 281; Lindstrom, p. 214). According to a later writer, these hunting parties had a leader and were governed by definite rules, but there is no direct evidence for this in pre-contact times (Loakiel, p. 77). These organized hunt took place in the fall, but hunting itself was a year round occupation.

	Williams	Van der Donck	Lindström	Zeisberger	Hedewelder	Johnston	Pipe	Chippis	J. W.	W. T.	E. R.	T. W.
+ = element present												
- = element denied												
(+) or (-) = source ambiguous												
* = informant could not or would not say												
S = some, sometimes, or several												
† or * = see Ethnographic Notes, pp. 79-137 for additional information												
<i>Food, mode of living, etc.—Continued</i>												
298. Vegetables introduced by whites				+	+			+	+	+	+	+
299. Wild rice			(-)					-	+	+	+	-
300. Have regular meals				+				-	+	+	+	-
301. Generally eat together (family)		(+)						+	+	+	+	-
302. Men and women eat together		(+)						+	+	+	+	+
303. Neat in their cooking			-	S	+			+	+	+	+	+
304. Several cooking modes		-	+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+
305. Generally prefer well done				+				+	+	+	+	+
306. Commonly eat in the night								+	-	+	+	-
307. Eat every kind of fish		+	(+)			+		+	-	+	+	+
<i>Hunting</i>												
308. Use bow and arrow	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+
309. Rifle and fowling piece		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
310. Blow gun for birds and small game								+	+	+	+	+
311. Deadfall for raccoon	+					+			+	+	+	+
312. Torches at night on water for deer						+			+	+	+	+
313. Fish with spears	+		-					+	+	+	+	+
314. With hook and line	+	+	-					+	+	+	+	+
315. By shooting with arrows	+	+	+					+	+	+	+	+
316. Hunt in large parties	+	+	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+
317. Number in party	300	100				10		40		15	4	6-7
318. Any attendant ceremonies			*(+)	-		15		50			+	+
319. Under guidance of oldest or most expert			+	+		+			+	+	+	+
320. Any peculiar laws in hunting			+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+
321. When two are hunting and one kills animal, it is divided equally				+		+		+	(+)	(+)	+	+
322. Person who kills or first wounds animal entitled to whole when stranger appears						+						
323. to skin and half of carcass				+				+	+			+

41/ Oklahoma Delaware said that they had used the blowgun as boys and that, although the targets were usually birds or small game, the blowgun was more of a toy than anything else. Since the sojourn of the ancestors of the Oklahoma Delaware in Ohio and Indiana in the first decades of the nineteenth century is rather well documented and accounts of that period fail to record the possession of the blowgun then, it is more than probable that two sources of diffusion are here indicated. The Canadian Munsee or Delaware undoubtedly received the blowgun from the Southeast through the Iroquois, whereas the Oklahoma Delaware probably received it direct from the southeastern tribes with whom they have been neighbors in Oklahoma.

227 It is strange that in two years on the Delaware River Lindeström did not see spears, nets, or hooks used to take fish (313-15). All these were mentioned by Roger Williams as being used by the Narragansets and all but the spears were listed by Van der Donck in addition to weirs. These last, according to Lindeström, were the principal means used by the Delaware to take fish. Weirs were not mentioned by the second- or third-period sources and were unknown to the modern Delaware.

224 Large hunting parties were reported periodically for the Delaware in every period (316). However, there was considerable variation as to the number constituting a large party (317). E. R. said four hunters were as many as ever hunted together. This is quite diverse from the hundreds reported in the first period. The parties were formed for their mutual advantage and were under the guidance of the oldest or most expert hunter (319). Williams, Van der Donck, and Lindeström mentioned the driving of deer by large parties. Subsequent accounts did not mention game drives, and the report of smaller parties probably indicate that they were no longer made. Group hunting in the later periods was described by Johnston as a party of several families going together directed by a head man who encouraged the young men to pursue their hunting every morning and directed them where and when to move their camps. The ceremonies observed [796] in connection with group hunting were rather elaborate as described by Lindeström (see *post*, pp. 127-28). In the second and